

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested. Claims 1-38 are pending, Claims 1 and 36 having been amended by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action Claims 1 and 36 were objected to; Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 8-10, 12, 14-22, 23, 25, 27, 29-34 and 35-38 were rejected as being anticipated by Toda et al. (Optical Soliton Transmission in a Comb-Like Dispersion Profiled Fiber Loop, hereinafter "Toda"); Claim 24 was rejected as being obvious over Toda and in further view of Chernikov et al (Electronic Letters, 30(5): 433-434, 1994); and Claims 13 and 28 were rejected as being unpatentable over Toda in further view of Chernikov.

It is first noted that the present Office Action has not yet recognized the Information Disclosure Statement of October 22, 2003. Accordingly in the next Office Action Applicants request that this IDS be acknowledged.

The objection to Claims 1 and 36 has been addressed by amending the two claims.

Claim 1 is directed to a device for producing optical pulses that includes an optical mirror, which includes an input port, an output port, and a fiber optic loop having two ends. The input port is optically connected to both ends of the fiber optic loop such that an optical pulse input into the input port is split into two lesser magnitude optical pulses which are counter propagating pulses that propagate in opposite directions through the fiber optic loop. The output port is optically connected to each of the ends of the fiber optic loop so as to receive optical energy from both of the counter-propagating pulses. The fiber optic loop includes a comb-like dispersion profiled fiber.

The outstanding Office Action asserts that Toda describes all the elements in Claim 1. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Toda describes in Figure 3 a CDPF, that is coupled to an acoustic optical modulator (AOM2). While the AOM2 is a four port device (two input ports and two output ports as shown), it is a modulator, not an optical mirror. Moreover, the AOM2 does not split an optical pulse into two lesser magnitude optical pulses which propagate in opposite directions through the fiber optic. The outstanding Office Action asserts in paragraph 7 that such a function would be "inherent". Applicants disagree. A function of splitting a pulse into two lesser magnitude counter-propagating pulses is not inherent in an acoustic optical modulator. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Toda does not anticipate Claim 1.

As Claims 2, 4-7, 8-10 and 12 depend from Claim 1 it is respectfully submitted that these claims also patentably define over Toda. For substantially the same reasons as provided with regard to Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 14-22, 23, 25, 27, 29-34 and 35-38 also patentably define over Toda.

Claim 3 stands rejected as being unpatentable over Toda. However, as discussed above, Claim 3, as well as Claim 11 depend from Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these claims also patentably define over Toda. Because Claim 26 depends from Claim 22 it is respectfully submitted that this claim also patentably defines over Toda for at least the reason provided above with regard to Claim 22.

Claim 24 stands rejected as being unpatentable over Toda in further view of Chernikov. Chernikov is asserted for its disclosure of a light source comprising a plurality of optical source having different wavelengths that are combined to produce a modulated light beam. However, even if such a feature were present in Chernikov, the combination of this feature with Toda would not teach or suggest all the elements of Claim 24 and therefore does not render obvious the invention defined by Claim 24.

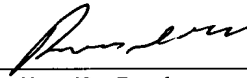
Claims 13 and 28 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Toda and in further view of Chernikov. However, as Claim 13 depends from Claim 1, and Claim 28 depend from

Claim 22, it is respectfully submitted that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been made with regard to these rejected claims.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-38, as amended, is patentably distinguishing over the prior art. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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